

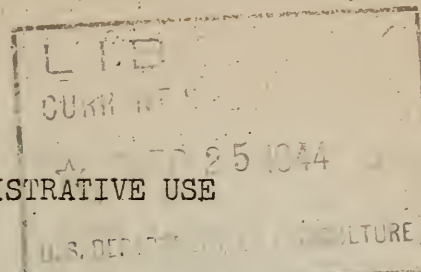
## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Distribution  
Marketing Reports Division  
821 Market Street, Room 700  
San Francisco 3, California  
Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending August 19, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Peaches: This continues to be the abundant fruit on western wholesale markets. Best known varieties now available are Rochesters, Elbertas, Hales, Crawfords, Rio Oso Gems, Palora Clings and Orange Clings. Wholesale prices for good stock ranged between 7 and 12 cents per pound, with as much as a 4 cent per pound drop on some of the markets on the more plentiful varieties.

Shipments in California to processors are only 67 percent of shipments to this time in 1943, while shipments for fresh consumption are up to 95 percent of those for last year. The lateness of the season in California is indicated by the lag in the movement to processors when the crop is so much above normal.

Apples: Quantities of apples on the markets are increasing, and varieties which have appeared during the week were Gravensteins, Wealthys, Transparents and some Skinner's Seedlings from the Santa Clara Valley in California. Prices on the wholesale markets closed the week at 6 to 9 cents per pound for the place-pack stock down to 4 cents per pound for loose pack.

Crop estimates for the four largest producing states in the west indicate a 1944 crop of 40,605,000 bushels. This is 97 percent of the average for these states and 16 percent above the 1943 crop. The total crop for the United States this year is estimated at 125,643,000 bushels, 3 percent over the average for the previous ten years and 41 percent over the 1943 crop.

Grapes: In the Northwest, grapes were in very limited supply during the week, with wholesale prices quoted up to \$5.00 per lug for Thompson Seedless. On the California and Arizona markets they were in liberal supply, with wholesale prices at or below the ceiling on most varieties. Concords were selling at 8 cents per pound on the Los Angeles market.

Of 1341 cars of grapes moving interstate this year to date, 9 cars have been shipped as juice stock.

Plums: Plums continue to be in liberal supply on western wholesale markets, particularly in Los Angeles where the trucked-in receipts are averaging approximately 6200 lugs daily. Wholesale prices closed the week at \$1.25 to \$2.25 per lug, according to variety. Santa Rosa's were generally quoted at \$1.25 to \$1.50 per lug.

Pears: The trucked-in movement of pears is increasing daily. Prices on good packed Bartletts were \$3.75 to \$4.00 per box. Pears loose in boxes and lugs were as low as 4 cents per pound.



Beans: Locally grown snap beans were in oversupply in the Northwest, and prices had dropped 5 to 7 cents per pound under those of a week ago, which would place them at near 4 to 8 cents per pound. On the California markets, the range in price was from 6 to 12 cents for the better grades of Blue Lake, Kentucky Wonder and Lima Beans.

Sweet Potatoes: Seattle received its first shipment of 1944 Louisiana yams. They sold at around \$4.25 per crate. Nancy Hall, Jersey and Maryland sweet potatoes from Kern County, Merced County and Coachella Valley points sold on California markets at 8.6 cents per pound. On these same markets prices in 1943 were from 7 to 13 cents per pound for sweet potatoes.

Onions: Are in heavy supply and prices are unchanged. Yellow and White Globes, Sweet Spanish, Red Flat and Red Torpedoes are to be found on most of the markets, with Yellow Globe and Sweet Spanish predominating.

#### DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Demand for both butter and cheese continued to exceed supplies. Production further declined from that of last week and was affected both by the truck strike of the previous week and continued hot weather. Due to vacations the present demand for butter is not so heavy as might otherwise be expected. High point value may also be holding back sales. In many areas, retail stores are resorting to sales on a limit basis.

Eggs: Prices on Grade A Large eggs remained at the same level during the week in all western markets. Grade A Small, however, were not steady and in some places dropped as much as 2 cents per dozen.

Heavy receipts of fresh eggs, especially on the northwestern markets, have materially slowed up the out-of-storage movement.

In the east, receipts of hot weather eggs have held the market in an unsettled condition with demand apparently at a low point.

The WFA has announced that the 1.4 million cases of shell eggs in storage, and the 37.5 million pounds of frozen eggs, as of August 4th, would be held for sale only at ceiling prices and will not be dumped on the market in large volume at any one time.

Poultry: Supplies of broilers and fryers appeared to be short on all of the western markets. The culling of flocks continued, but in the northwest there was some decrease in receipts of fowl toward the end of this week and paying prices (fob) reached ceiling at some points. Fob prices for live poultry on California markets ranged from 18 cents per pound for lower grade stock to 27½ cents for top quality.

#### GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: Weather conditions have been favorable in the northwestern areas and Winter wheat harvest is well advanced. In the Red River sections there were interruptions from weather and some damage resulted due to wind and hail. In the Canadian prairie provinces variable weather has interfered with harvesting, although from 15 to 25 percent of the crop is now harvested.

At Portland, bid prices for wheat closed the week at \$1.44 per bushel for Soft White and Hard Red Winter and \$1.46 for Western Red.

Barley: August 1st estimates place the total barley crop for the United States at 7,048,872 tons, and for the nine Western Region states at 2,334,264 tons, which is 37,344 tons under the crop from these states last year. The total crop for the U. S. is 91 percent of last year's crop and 120 percent of the ten year average.

Number 2 Western Barley testing 45 pounds per bushel closed the week in Portland at \$2.30 per cwt. Prices on the San Francisco market were  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 cents lower with grower offerings light.

Rice: The total rice crop of the United States is estimated at 68,858,000 bushels as of August 1st, a 2 percent drop from earlier estimates. Rains have retarded harvesting in the southern states, but the weather in the California rice belt has been very favorable toward a record crop. Stocks of rice have been greatly reduced, and milling of new crop rice has not yet begun.

Hops: A U. S. record crop of hops, 48,430,000 pounds, is in prospect from the three states of California, Oregon and Washington. August 1st estimates place the 1944 crop 14 percent above the 1943 crop and 24 percent above the ten-year average. It is expected that harvesting will start about the first of next week.

#### LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

Cattle: Receipts of cattle on the twelve principal markets reached a total of 236,900 head for the past week, approximately 300 head more than for the week previous. In the west, receipts were slightly down and wholesale prices up 25 to 50 cents per hundred. Grass fat steers, medium to good, brought prices mostly around \$14.00 to \$15.25. Common stock ranged downward in price during the week.

Hogs: Receipts of hogs were lighter this past week than for the week previous, in the twelve markets about 7 percent lighter. In the western markets, prices ranged upward to ceilings, generally about 15 to 25 cents higher. On the Rocky mountain markets demand was pressing supply and prices were at ceiling on support weights.

Sheep: Receipts of sheep in the northwest continued light during the week, while in California receipts remained heavy and lambs sold 25 to 75 cents lower. On the northwest and eastern markets prices moved up about 25 cents, reflecting the lower receipts.

Wool: August 1st estimates place the wool shorn and to be shorn in 1944 at 355,129,000 pounds, 8 percent under 1943 production and 4 percent under the ten-year average. Production in the 11 western states is estimated at 162,260 pounds, 91 percent of the 1944 crop, 88 percent of the ten-year average, and is 46 percent of the U. S. total. These reductions represent a combined reduction in both the number of sheep shorn and in the fleece weights.

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...